

# Environmental Health

## Able Pest Control - Seattle, WA HEALTH CONSULTATION FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

The Washington Department of Health prepared a Health Consultation for Able Pest Control, located in Seattle, Washington. The Health Consultation evaluates potential health effects associated with exposure to environmental contaminants found at the former Able Pest Control facility and the Lake Forest Park Preschool, located near the facility (see *map on back*). The evaluation determines if exposure to the chemicals found might have caused harmful health effects. This fact sheet summarizes the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultation.

### BACKGROUND

The Able Pest Control facility operated from 1969 to 1985 in a residential neighborhood. Although chemicals were stored on-site, most of the pest control operations were conducted off-site, such as pesticide mixing. In 1994 the facility was converted into two residential apartments.

In 1997, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) collected soil samples and found pesticides, mostly chlordane and dieldrin. Ecology then removed contaminated soil. In 1998, DOH prepared a Health Consultation that recommended additional sampling to better determine potential health impacts to residents.

In 1999, Ecology sampled soil. DOH obtained samples of blood and breast milk for two apartment residents. The results of those samples were analyzed to determine if there was a health hazard and findings were presented in a second Health Consultation. (To request a copy, call toll free at 877-485-7316.) Ecology also determined that additional cleanup was needed.

### PRESCHOOL PROPERTY

Ecology found small amounts of pesticides in soil at the Lake Forest Park Preschool. DOH determined that the levels found are not considered harmful to children or teachers. However, as a precaution, Ecology removed the contamination, resurfaced the area with clean soil, and seeded it with grass (see *the map on the back for the location where contaminated soil was removed*).

Soil samples taken in 1999, found that low levels of pesticides had gotten back onto preschool grounds. The levels found were similar to those found the first time, but still not at levels that would be harmful to children or teachers at the preschool. However, one pesticide, dieldrin, was detected at a level where Ecology needed to take action. Therefore, soil was removed from the preschool grounds a second time. Ecology will continue to sample soil at the preschool to ensure that the grounds remain free of pesticide contaminants.

#### **No Public Health Hazard**

*Sites where information indicates no current or past exposure or no potential for exposure and therefore no health hazard.*

### CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ There is no public health hazard at the Able Pest facility, because no one is currently living in the converted apartments. Soil contaminated with pesticides at levels of concern will be removed before anyone moves back into the apartments.
- ◆ There is no public health hazard at the preschool for children or teachers. The levels of pesticides found in soil at the preschool were not high enough to cause health problems. Ecology did take precautionary measures by removing small amounts of contaminated soil. Ecology will continue to monitor the pesticide levels in soil.

- ◆ Future residents at the apartments may be exposed to pesticides found in indoor dust. The levels of pesticides found were higher in the downstairs apartment than in the upstairs apartment. Soil sampling and removal activities may generate contaminated dust which could find its way into the apartments.

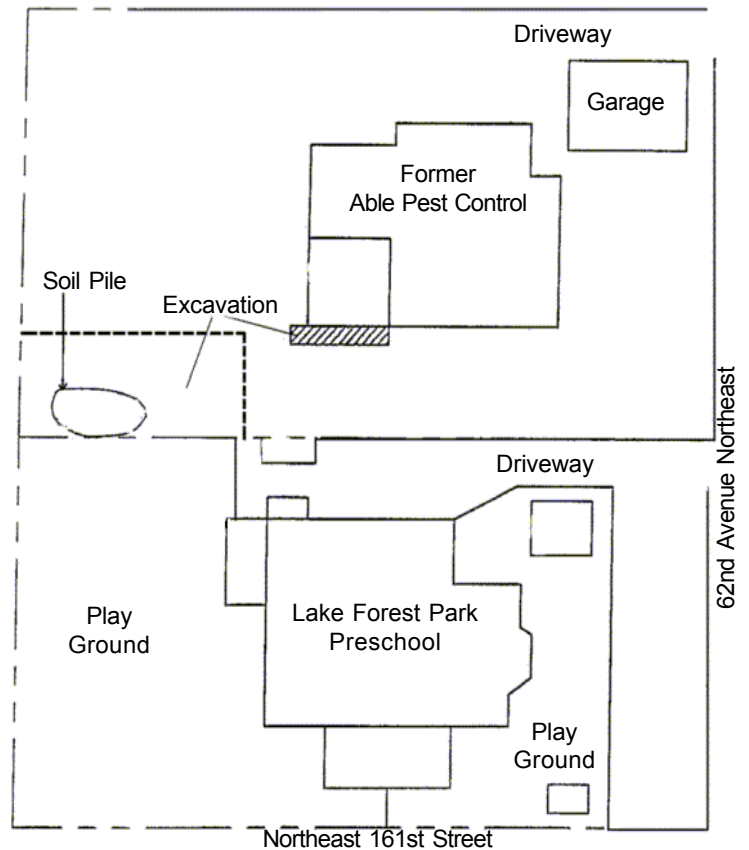
#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The converted apartments at the former Able Pest Control facility should remain empty until cleanup is completed. Any exposure to indoor dust that contains pesticides should be reduced or eliminated. The carpet and padding in both apartments should be removed and properly disposed of. Indoor air should also be sampled in the basement apartment after the removal to make sure the cleanup is complete.

#### FUTURE ACTIONS

DOH will continue to work with Ecology to ensure that harmful exposures are not occurring at this site. To request a copy of the Health Consultation, call Rob Duff toll free at 1-877-485-7316.

[www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/default.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/default.htm)



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